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(54) Title: **PHARMACEUTICAL DOSAGE FORMS HAVING OVERT AND COVERT MARKINGS FOR IDENTIFICATION AND AUTHENTICATION**

(57) Abstract: Oral solid dosage forms such as tablets having overt, printed or etched markings as well as optional covert markings are disclosed. The markings can be rapidly identified to authenticate a dosage form and/or drug contained therein. The inventive dosage forms include a core portion having sufficiently low friability to receive a printed or etched marking on a surface thereof, and a readable or detectable printed or etched marking on the surface of the core which provides information allowing the identification / authentication of the oral dosage form. In preferred aspects of this embodiment, a bar code, more preferably, a 2D data matrix bar code is printed or etched on a debossed region on the surface of the solid dose form. Methods of preparing the marked dosage forms and methods of identifying and/ or authenticating solid dosage forms are also disclosed.



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